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request for a bridge across the branch of the Tungabhadra river which now separates Desanur from Siruguppa, and, if so, the action taken or proposed to be taken by the Government thereon?

A.—In October 1927, the President, Union Board, Siruguppa, reported that one ryot, Desanur Rama Reddi, was anxious to have a bridge constructed at the site referred to. The proposal was examined and dropped on the ground that there was no justification for the large expenditure involved.

Medical Administration

Control of taluk headquarters hospitals by the Government.

* 248 *Q.*—Mr. P. V. Krishnayya Choudari: Will the hon. the Minister for Local Self-Government be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether the Government have decided on taking all Taluk Headquarters hospitals under their own control; and

(*b*) if so, when the decision will be put into effect?

A.—(*a*) No. The matter is under consideration.
(*b*) The question does not arise.

Mr. V. M. Ramaswami Mudaliyar:—" May I know whether there is any chance of Government making up its mind on this question? "

The hon. the Raja of Bobbili:—" It is a question whether the local boards should be permitted to run these institutions or the Government should undertake them. The whole matter is still under consideration."

Unfavourable rates of prices charged by the Government Medical Stores for medicines supplied to taluk boards.

* 249 *Q.*—Mr. P. V. Krishnayya Choudari: Will the hon. the Minister for Local Self-Government be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether it has been represented to the Government that the prices of medicines in the Medical Stores are very much higher than those prevailing in the market;

(*b*) whether the Government propose to permit the taluk boards to purchase their medicines in the open market in view of the exorbitant prices of the Medical Stores; and

(*c*) whether taluk boards are closing down dispensaries owing to lack of finances?

A.—(*a*) & (*b*) Some local bodies have reported that the prices charged by the Medical Stores Depot are higher than those charged by private firms, but a detailed investigation in the matter has definitely proved that the prices charged by the depot are on the whole much lower than those at which drugs of the same quality and purity can be